



Youth fast forward to the future and write a personal ad for the person they would want to date when the time is right.

Why?

Many youth ages 11–14 are fast approaching the time when they will begin to date. They will be more likely to have a healthy, safe relationship if they learn to look for respectful behavior in potential boyfriends and girlfriends.

Where and When?

Dream Date works well in any setting that accommodates a small group of youth.

How?

The *Video Discussion Guide* can be found in the Materials section on the USB Flash Drive that comes with this Playbook.

Set the stage.

Show the 13-minute Choose Respect video for teen audiences, *Causing Pain: Real Stories of Dating Abuse and Violence*. Following the video, use the *Video Discussion Guide* to elicit thoughts and feelings of the youth about what they saw and heard and to share key Choose Respect concepts. At the conclusion of the discussion, give each youth a copy of the following fact sheets to review and answer any questions they may have:

- Dating Abuse Fact Sheet
- Dating Abuse: Risk Factors and Warning Signs
- Developing Healthy Relationships: A Role for Youth

Dream up a date.

After the discussion ask youth to write a personal ad for their dream date—it should be someone with whom they'd like to develop a healthy, respectful, and safe dating relationship when the time is right. This activity can take place immediately or be an overnight take-home assignment. The personal ad should include:

- What positive traits and healthy relationship skills they would bring to the relationship
- The traits and healthy relationship skills that they would like in a boyfriend or girlfriend

It may help to have participants brainstorm a list of healthy relationship characteristics (e.g., being honest about the good and the bad, understanding and respecting a boyfriend/girlfriend's individual interests, being a good listener, discussing problems calmly without being mean or yelling, trusting a boyfriend/girlfriend, looking for win-win situations, and making a boyfriend/girlfriend feel safe and appreciated).

Have volunteers share their ads. Give each youth who participates a Choose Respect-branded item like a T-shirt, awareness bracelet, bookmark, poster, or temporary tattoo.

Want to Do More?

- Invite a guest speaker to come in to talk with youth about healthy dating relationships. This can be a local pediatrician or counselor, faculty from local college or university, or staff from a local dating abuse prevention organization.
- Make this event part of a movie night where movies are shown that depict the qualities of healthy, respectful, and safe relationships (dating or otherwise).

Resources Needed:

<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting space	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose Respect-branded items such as a T-shirt, awareness bracelet, bookmark, poster, or temporary tattoo
<input type="checkbox"/> 13-minute Choose Respect video for teen audiences, <i>Causing Pain: Real Stories of Dating Abuse and Violence</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Video Discussion Guide</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose Respect Fact Sheet: Dating Abuse Fact Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose Respect Fact Sheet: Dating Abuse: Risk Factors and Warning Signs
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose Respect Fact Sheet: Developing Healthy Relationships: A Role for Youth	<input type="checkbox"/> TV and DVD player (or video may be downloaded from www.chooserespect.org)

Evaluation:

Document what you accomplish using Choose Respect tracking tools:

- **Stand Up & Be Counted**

Keep track of play participants and audience members. The Zone 1 Evaluation Tools contain a sign-in sheet.

- **Cheers & Changes**

After the play is complete, note your successes, challenges, and opportunities for the future. The Zone 1 Evaluation Tools contain a worksheet to help you do this.

Choose Respect feedback tools are recommended if you implement multiple plays. Assess what youth learned from and thought of a series of Choose Respect activities using Choose Respect feedback tools:

- **Youth Feedback**

After completing a series of activities with youth, collect information for your evaluation. The Zone 1 Evaluation Tools contain a feedback form to help you do this.